

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1-3. (canceled).**

**4. (currently amended):** A composition comprising a strain of lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of a biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ONRIC b0239 (FERM BP-10064) and a biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ONRIC b0240 (FERM BP-10065), and an edible carrier, wherein the composition is capable of stimulating mucosal immunity, and is in the form of a food or beverage.

**5. (canceled).**

**6. (previously presented):** The composition according to claim 4, wherein said composition is a fermented milk, lactic acid bacteria beverage, fermented vegetable beverage, fermented fruit beverage, or fermented soymilk beverage.

**7. (canceled).**

8. **(withdrawn):** A method of stimulating mucosal immunity in a human subject in need of such stimulation, comprising administering to said human subject the composition of claim 4 or claim 17.

9. **(canceled).**

10. **(withdrawn - currently amended):** A method of promoting IgA production in a human subject in need of such IgA production promoting treatment, comprising[[,]] administering to said human subject the composition of claim 4 or 18.

**11-15. (canceled).**

16. **(currently amended):** The composition of claim 4, wherein said composition is in the form of granules, a powder, a tablet, an effervescent tablet product or a pudding.

17. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition for human mucosal immunostimulation comprising a strain of lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of a biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ONRIC b0239 (FERM BP-10064) and a biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ONRIC b0240 (FERM BP-10065), and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent.

18. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition for promoting human IgA production comprising a strain of lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of a

biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ONRIC b0239 (FERM BP-10064) and a  
biologically pure culture of *Lactobacillus plantarum* ONRIC b0240 (FERM BP-10065), and a  
pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent.